

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

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R 280203Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

SECDEF

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PFAJ, US, SE

SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS ON SEYCHELLES

REF: STATE 045903

1. WE HAVE OBTAINED CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY AND ARE PREPARED TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SEYCHELLES AND UK ON DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS IN SEYCHELLES AND RETURN OF BIOT ISLANDS. REQUEST YOU ASK BRITISH TO ARRANGE TRIPARTITE
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MEETING IN LONDON AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

2. AS NOTED REFTTEL, WE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ALL ASPECTS OF OUR DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH SEYCHELLES AS WELL AS BIOT ISLAND ISSUE IN LONDON NEGOTIATIONS, FROM WHICH WE FULLY EXPECT A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION. HOWEVER, IF THESE TALKS SHOULD FAIL, WE WOULD REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE TIME TO STUDY RELOCATION ALTERNATIVES AND OTHER FACTORS, BEFORE RESUMING TALKS WITH MANCHAM/RENEE. WE THEREFORE

DO NOT REPEAT NOT SEE FOLLOW-UP MANCHAM VISIT TO WASHINGTON AS A USEFUL PART OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU WOULD CONVEY THESE VIEWS TO THE BRITISH AS BACKGROUND TO THE POSITION WE TOOK WITH MANCHAM PER REFTTEL.

3. WE HAVE INFORMED BRITISH EMBASSY HERE THAT WE SEE MERIT IN HAVING BRITISH ARRANGE WITH SEYCHELLES FOR DENIAL OF THREE ISLANDS TO HOSTILE POWERS AND REENTRY RIGHTS FOR US AND UK, AS PART OF UK AGREEMENT TO RETURN THE ISLANDS TO THE SEYCHELLES. WE WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC MODALITIES WITH BRITISH IMMEDIATELY BEFORE TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS. PLEASE FOLLOW UP WITH FCO TO ASCERTAIN BRITISH THINKING ON THIS ISSUE. INGERSOLL

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